

Message Text

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R 122127Z FEB 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IS, PORG, ICAO, ILO, UNESCO

SUBJECT: ISRAEL, ICAO, AND ILO

1. ON FEBRUARY 11 MINISTER OF ISRAEL EMBASSY, MORDECHAI SHALEV, CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM TO DISCUSS MATTERS IN ICAO, ILO, AND UNESCO OF INTEREST TO ISRAEL.

2. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, BUFFUM INFORMED SHALEV THAT RESPONSES TO OUR APPROACHES TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS ON OUR INITIATIVE AT ICAO TO IMPROVE AIR SECURITY HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING. SEVERAL ARAB COUNTRIES, INCLUDING EGYPT AND MOROCCO, HAVE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE. BUFFUM TOLD SHALEV US WAS APPRECIATIVE OF ISRAEL'S DECISION NOT TO CIRCULATE AT ICAO LETTERS WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN READ AS POLITICAL. SHALEV SAID HE HAD REPORTED PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED

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US CONCERN THAT ISRAELI DELEGATION TO ICAO WAS AT TOO CON-

SPICUOUSLY HIGH A LEVEL, AND OBSERVED THAT ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO CANADA MERON WAS ONLY AMBASSADOR ON DELEGATION.

3. SHALEV TOLD BUFFUM HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ASK WHETHER US AND ISRAEL COULD HOLD CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON PRIOR TO MARCH 5 MEETING OF ICAO COUNCIL. IF US AGREES TO CONSULTATIONS HERE, AMBASSADOR MERON PROBABLY WILL COME TO WASHINGTON. BUFFUM SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS PROPOSAL IN DEPARTMENT AND INFORM SHALEV OF DECISION.

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4. ILO-SHALEV SAID ISRAEL IS CONTENDING WITH TWO PROBLEMS IN ILO. LAST YEAR ILO GENERAL CONFERENCE ADOPTED RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL FOR LABOR PRACTICES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ISRAEL HAS BEEN TRYING TO BE HELPFUL BY PROPOSING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ILO SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO INVESTIGATE. SECOND PROBLEM FACING ISRAEL IN ILO IS PROPOSAL BEFORE GOVERNING BODY TO GRANT PLO OBSERVER STATUS IN ILO. ISRAEL BELIEVES BEST SOLUTION TO PROBLEM WOULD BE TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL, AND WOULD LIKE US SUPPORT. BUFFUM SAID THAT US IS ALSO WORRIED AND THAT IRVING BROWN OF AFL/CIO, WITH DISCREET USG BACKING, IS SEEKING SUPPORT FOR POSTPONEMENT. HOWEVER, POSTPONEMENT WOULD BE ONLY TEMPORARY SOLUTION; GENERAL CONFERENCE THIS SUMMER ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL APPROVE PLO REPRESENTATION. BUFFUM SAID WE WERE CONSIDERING WHETHER ACQUIESCENCE IN PLO REPRESENTATION UNDER UMBRELLA FORMULA MIGHT NOT BE BETTER THAN OUTRIGHT INVITATION TO PLO BY NAME. SHALEV REPLIED THAT HE SAW NO DISTINCTION AND ASKED FOR US OPPOSITION TO PROPOSALS FOR PLO REPRESENTATION NO MATTER HOW FORMULATED. BUFFUM SAID WE WILL CONTINUE SUPPORT EFFORTS TO GET POSTPONEMENT AND WILL CONSIDER FURTHER WHAT OUR FINAL POSITION WILL BE IF POSTPONEMENT EFFORT FAILS. BUFFUM WENT ON TO MENTION THAT WHEN IN GENEVA RECENTLY, HE HAD HEARD RUMORS OF POSSIBLE ATTEMPT BY INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF ARAB TRADE UNIONS TO EXPEL ISRAEL AT NEXT GENERAL CONFERENCE. BUFFUM TOLD SHALEV US IS IN CONTACT WITH ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD AND IS WORKING TO HEAD OFF ANY SUCH ATTEMPT TO EXPEL ISRAEL.

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5. UNESCO- BUFFUM MENTION THAT HE HAD MET RECENTLY WITH UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW WHO PROMISED TO DO WHAT HE CAN TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE. M'BOW WILL TRY TO BE HELPFUL IN ESTABLISHING PRINCIPLE THAT ALL MEMBERS SHOULD BELONG TO SOME REGIONAL GROUP, BUT FEELS HIS HANDS ARE TIED ON FUNDS CUT-OFF TO ISRAEL. INGERSOLL

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